SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

6th Year – December 11, 1972

No 177

Address: HT 1217 B-SVN
c/o DAZIMINA HANOI
19, Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, DRVN
and all RSVN Embassies, Information Bureaux in foreign countries

CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

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editorial

OUR GOOD WILL AND DETERMINATION

THE Viet Nam side's good will and seriousness has been shown not only once but many times during and even before the negotiations. While resisting US aggression with arms in hand, the South Vietnamese people have not ceased making clear their desire for a peaceful settlement of the issue through meaningful and earnest talks. This has been unmistakably plain in the NFL political platform and the RSVN PRG 12 points. The presence at the Paris Conference of the former's delegation in the past and of the latter's at present as well as the 5 points, the 10 points, the 7 points and the two-point elaboration on these and the September 11 statement have been proof enough and vivid illustrations of our consistent and business-meaning attitude regarding a solution of the conflict on the basis of the respect for our fundamental national rights and right to self-determination.

WE have had no other wish than genuine peace, independence and freedom, no other hope than cessation of US aggression and withdrawal of US and satellite troops and no other aspiration than being left to see to our own problems like that of power, that of various armed forces and that of rehabilitation and construction in the spirit of national reconciliation and concord. Our position's justness, conformity to sense and reason, logicality and reasonableness have won it not only the warm support and sympathy of the people at home but also of progressives in the world and in the US as well. We want a negotiated settlement which will bring to an end our nation's sufferings and the American people's agony and make it possible for our two countries to live together in peace and friendship. We want to pave the way for the US administration's disinvolving from Viet Nam and Indochina with honour. We want to find answers to South Viet Nam's, to Viet Nam's internal problems in the spirit of national reconciliation and concord. We want to make good the aftermaths of the war which has played havoc in our people's affection for one another and in our land.

BUT we will not accept any neo-colonialist rule under any sort of disguise. We are resolved to battle indefatigably for our people's basic objectives which are genuine independence, freedom and peace. We do not fear any brutal force or any impudent threat. Our fight will go on until US aggression stops. We have enough foods, enough weapons and enough resolution to carry it on. We have won and we will ultimately win.

HAVING shown its bad faith and committed a breach of faith, the Nixon administration is trying to turn the tide. It is pouring more weapons and war materials into South Viet Nam, feverishly beefing up the Saigon army, mounting tens of thousands of police operations, and pushing up pacification in a search for a new position of strength on the battlefield for further bargaining at the conference table and minimizing our people's gains.

But all its efforts are to no purpose. The war has caused enough trouble and setbacks to the US like an inflated defence budget, deficits in the balance of payments, inflation, unemployment, growing social evils, a dimming international image... It is one of the most costly war in US history in terms of men and materials, and of credit. The harvest of 18 years of intervention and aggression has been only failure after failure. One still remembers that after its unilateral war, the US had to try its special war which eventually came to a flop and had to be replaced by a limited war. The latter had to be superceded by "Vietnamization" which has been going to the dogs. A degree of re-Americanization of the war has been carried out. However facts have sealed the fate of all US schemes, Vietnamization and Americanization alike. It is obvious that extending the losing war for another four years is no honourable way of ending it. It is not a wise course of action either.

Let Mr Nixon not labour under the delusion that time will wear out the Vietnamese people's sense of purpose. Stone and steel can be corroded but not single-mindedness of a nation convinced that "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom" and fortified with valiancy and determination in face of foreign invasions. Time will only stiffen their resolve. The US President should not believe that their good will may mitigate their resolve. The Vietnamese have both galore. They are fully aware that their good will will only be reciprocated if their resolve to fight does not flag and that they should toughen it if their good will goes without an adequate response.

THE Nixon administration's brutality, trickiness, bad faith, duplicity, procrastination of the war, stepping up of arm deliveries to its South Vietnamese agents and its pressure for our acceptance of its terms and alterations to basic principles already agreed on are rather naive methods with which it thinks it could get at the bargaining table what it has not been able to gain on the battleground. They are all the more naive as 30 million bombs and countless millions of bullets have not shaken our iron will. The record of the US in Viet Nam, 18 years' intervention and aggression, five presidents, nearly 200 billion dollars, over 10 million tons of bombs and bullets later has demonstrated that nothing can intimidate our people.

If Mr Nixon persists in his present manoeuvres, we will persist in our combat effort until final victory. His administration will be blamed by history for its accumulating war crimes and by the Americans for more trouble and failures it will have invited itself.

SOUTH VIET NAM

Spanning a bridge for the trucks to the [illegible]

US-Thieu measures of terror and assassination against prisoners condemned

Following is the full text of the statement on December 3, 1972 by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam condemning the intensified US-puppet measures of terror and assassination against patriots and peace-loving people detained in South Viet Nam:

Of late, on US orders, the Nguyen Van Thieu puppet administration has frenziedly pushed forward in South Viet Nam a white terror campaign of unprecedented scale and ruthlessness. This campaign is directed at all social strata; all people favouring peace and national concord are suppressed; patriots and peace-loving people illegally detained by the US-puppets have been maimed or assassinated.

Since 1973, in face of heavy US defeats in the war of aggression in Viet Nam and the strong pressure of American and world public opinion urging the Nixon administration to end its aggression and give a serious response to the reasonable and sensible proposals made by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the Nguyen Van Thieu puppet administration, acting on US orders, had worked out a so-called security plan to be carried out in the event of a bilateral settlement; in essence, that was a plan for suppressing all democratic freedoms, wiping out all patriotic and peace-loving forces and those people opposed to Thieu. In this extremely serious plan of escalation of crimes, Thieu advocates, in addition to a series of impudent fascist measures, "firm but covert repressions" against those detainees that cannot be won over to his side, "easy measures of adjustment" (i.e. secret assassination) "so as to avoid difficulties during the cease-fire and the return of prisoners."

Since October 1972, in the face of the serious bankruptcy of the "Vietnamization" policy and fearing an early restoration of peace in Viet Nam, the Nguyen Van Thieu puppet administration has more clearly than ever revealed itself as a blood-thirsty dictatorial regime. It has enacted a series of fascist "decree-laws" providing for death sentence or life imprisonment against those presumed to be Viet Cong or pro-Viet Cong, that is, all patriots and anyone who favors peace and national concord, and wishes the peace agreement to be signed, and even those people more or less discontent with Thieu's personal dictatorship. In less than one month's time, it launched tens of thousands of raiding operations in the countryside and right in the cities, killing on the spot or jailing without judgment tens of thousands of people, among them religious people, personalities, intellectuals, students, old folk, pregnant women and even members of the puppet administrative apparatus.

What is particularly serious, the Nguyen Van Thieu puppet administration has drawn up lists of several thousand political detainees considered the most dangerous to be urgently assassinated prior to the cease-fire. In Hau Nghia province alone, the list includes about 40% of the detainees. At the same time, in all prisons and detention camps, thugs of the Nguyen Van Thieu puppet administration have prolonged under groundless pretexts prison terms for the detainees, they have savagely intensified repressions, tortures and massacres against a host of prisoners as was recently the case in Phu Quoc, Chi Hoa, Poulo Condor, etc. They have moved prisoners from one prison to another with a view to facilitating the implementation of the scheme to assassinate them, or have secretly brought them to unknown destinations.

Patriots and peace-lovers penned up in "tiger cages" by the US-Thieu in Poulo Condor island and other jails

As is well known, in the past eighteen years, the fascist dictatorial regimes imposed by the United States on South Viet Nam have, one after the other, turned this zone into a prison, a barrack and a battlefield. With the current campaign of frenzied repression, terror and reprisal, the United States and Thieu have more crudely than ever trampled underfoot the South Vietnamese people's national rights, democratic liberties and peace aspirations, violated the most elementary norms of international law, aroused deep indignation among the entire Vietnamese people, and insolently challenged peace- and justice-loving people in the world. Along with stepped-up US war of extermination in both zones of Viet Nam, and massive introduction of weapons and war materials into South Viet Nam to increase the equipment of the Saigon army, the above-mentioned US puppet campaign of terror and reprisal is driving back the possibilities for ending the war and restoring peace in Viet Nam.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam indignantly condemns and strongly denounces to public opinion at home and abroad the US-puppet schemes and acts to intensify repression and terror against the people and to assassinate patriots and peace-loving people now being detained. The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam solemnly declares the following: the South Vietnamese people must have peace in independence and freedom. They are determined to flatten all obstacles in the path to this lofty objective and they are sure to win total victory. The US government must stop its aggression, it should shoulder responsibility for calling an immediate end to the puppet administration's campaign of terror in South Viet Nam, stopping the tortures, ill-treatments and murders of patriots and peace-loving people, whether affiliated or not to revolutionary organizations, including those people opposed to Thieu. The more obdurately the United States persists in its aggression and prolongs the war, the heavier will be its defeats. The more frenziedly the puppet Nguyen Van Thieu terrorizes and massacres the people and opposes peace and national concord, the more isolated he will be and the sooner he will be overthrown.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam calls on all countrymen and fighters to enhance their patriotism and deepen their hatred of the US aggressors and their stooges for the crimes they have committed against our people, and to forge ahead in the flush of victory, unremittingly launching powerful offensives and uprisings, destroying the system of coercion to win still greater victories and steadily advance to final victory.

Countrymen in the towns and the rural areas still temporarily under enemy control! Intensify your concerted actions, step up the struggle against repression and terror, for democracy and a better life, demand guarantees for the lives of our countrymen and fighters now being detained and their immediate release. Enhance your vigilance, and fight to check all enemy schemes and acts to murder them!

Brothers and sisters now being detained by the Americans and Thieu! Whatever your political tendency, party affiliation and religious belief, unite into one bloc, fight against the harsh US-Thieu regime of detention, for freedom and the right to live! The entire people are closely following and warmly supporting your struggle, and fighting in close coordination with you in all appropriate forms!

Soldiers, policemen, and members of the puppet administrative apparatus! For the love of our countrymen, for the sake of the country's peace, of national reconciliation and concord, oppose the US-puppet orders for repression and terror against the people, give a correct treatment to the detainees, help them escape the enemy's barbarous torture and oppose his scheme of assassination! With practical deeds, pave yourselves the way to a return to the people's ranks!

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam expresses sincere thanks to the friends in all the five continents, among them, the progressive American people, who are firmly condemning the ruthless policy of the Nixon administration and the Nguyen Van Thieu puppet administration to suppress, terrorize and assassinate patriots and peace-loving people illegally detained by them; it earnestly calls on peace-, freedom-, and justice-loving governments and people, the American people, jurists, intellectuals, religious people, social organizations, personalities in the world to take even stronger actions, to actively join the Vietnamese people in the struggle to win freedom for, and guarantee the lives of hundreds of their best sons and daughters now being detained in US-puppet prisons.

The struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and national concord is bound to end in victory!

South Viet Nam, December 3, 1972.

in the cities

+ Tens of thousands of Buddhist monks and nuns and others in Tra Vinh province have held demonstrations in support of the DRVN Government and RSVN PRG concerning the Viet Nam peace negotiations. The demonstrators marched past pagodas and military posts in various district towns and the provincial capital. Many officers and men of the Saigon army joined in the action.

+ Various urban sections in My Tho and Can Tho have come out strongly against the current flag-display and flag-painting drive of the Thieu regime. Three-stripe flags painted on the doors and walls of civilian houses have been removed or blotted out. In only 2 nights, the people tore down tens of thousands of such flags made of cloth.

+ In the last 10 days of November, people in Ben Tre staged 15 protests against military draft and against flag making and flying. Thousands of 3-stripe flags and inter-families plates, hundreds of Thieu's portraits as well as many leaflets and slogan-banners issued by the enemy have been torn down.

+ Thousands of people in My Tho, Bien Hoa and Kien Phong have firmly protested the wanton killing of civilians and destruction of their property, rice-fields and orchards by US B.52 strategic bombers and other war planes and claimed compensations.

They lodged petitions with Saigon's Lower House against US-Thieu crimes and the treachery of local quislings. As a result, the enemy had to pay nearly 3 million piastres damages and meet the people's claims.

+ While stepping up the collection of income, motor-driven vehicle, licence and registration taxes, the Thieu regime has ordered an additional 6-billion piastres levied within 40 days in all urban centres. The townsfolk, especially doctors, lawyers, artistes, etc. have castigated this ruthless squeeze.

+ On the night of October 26, wicked police agents in the Thuan Nhon (Can Tho) military sub-sector arrested Miss Nguyen Thi Phuong, 28, and brought her to their station where she was raped to death. Indignant people in Can Tho and other South Viet Nam cities have demanded compensation for the victim's family and due punishment of the murderers.

+ This year, the Thieu regime has been incessantly boosting taxes. Particularly, the taxes on transportation materiel and spare-parts have doubled. As a result, the majority of Saigon's working population has been much worse off. On November 15, the Transport Workers' Union decided to press for an end to tax increases and rises in price of fuel.

+ The Saigon administration has had to agree to a 15% rise in basic pay for all plantation workers in South Viet Nam, an initial success for the latter who have been militating for higher wages in the past 5 years. As prices have gone up by 200%, the 15-percent wage hike does not bring much improvement to the living conditions of the workers. All South Viet Nam plantation workers are pursuing their struggle.

+ Private schools have been seriously hit by Saigon's taxation. Apart from an additional 200,000 piastres in income-tax, each private school must pay tax arrears running to 6 or 7 million piastres. Owners of these schools are insisting that the Thieu regime cease raising taxes and collecting exorbitant income-tax.

+ Railway and aviation workers are pressing for higher pay and payment of their wages in due time, particularly at this time of rocketing prices and galloping inflation.

Moving encounter between patriotic Vietnamese residents in Thailand and the delegation of the DRVN sent to negotiate the repatriation of their countrymen

Townsfolk fight for peace and against higher taxes

WHILE frantically and obstinately calling for war continuation, against national reconciliation and concord, the blood-thirsty traitor Nguyen Van Thieu is using his own fascist decrees to step up exploitation and repression of the people.

A campaign of flag-sewing, -drawing and -painting has been initiated by him. Agents on his payroll have forced tailors to make millions of Saigon "three-stripe" flags which the administration compels, through deception and demagogy, the people living in cities and areas under their control to buy and display before their houses, when cease-fire is achieved, to "show loyalty toward the nationalist government." The Saigon paper *But Thep* (Steel Pen) reported that this flag affair costs each family 1,000 piastres, that is 100 million piastres for the whole city.

To make up for the 140-billion deficit in the 1972 budget, Thieu and his confederates have issued a decree raising by 900 per cent taxes on motor vehicles, and imposing new taxes on lands and orchards—4,000 piastres per hectare of land, 15,000 piastres per hectare of first-class orchard, 10,000 if the orchard is second-class and 6,000 if it is third-class. All landed estates either provided with structures or used for commercial and industrial purposes are liable to some imposition. Students have to pay annually 10,000 piastres to the so-called "University development" funds, and in addition, registration, lecture attendance and examination fees. As for the small vendors of the 36 Saigon markets, they are ruthlessly squeezed by the Nguyen Van Thieu administration, through such taxations as those on trade, production, transportation of goods to town and to market, stall location, incomes of the last three years (from 1969 to 1971), etc. Income-tax of coffee-houses goes up from 18,000 piastres a year to 40,000. Those contravening curfew regulations are heavily fined. Thousands of shops catering for the needs of the population have to close down as a result of Thieu's extortions.

However, the latter's position is in no way the better with his decrees on flags, tax hikes, prohibition of activities in favour of national reconciliation and concord, coupled with other measures of deception, demagogy and repression. It only becomes weaker and more isolated, and is the target of the angry people's powerful protest drive. The movement against the US-Thieu dictatorship, for peace and the people's welfare is gaining momentum with versatile methods of action. It is rapidly expanding to all social sections. Buddhist superiors in pagodas in Can Tho city angered by Thieu's bad faith and war outcries, workers and students, officers and men of the Thieu army in Saigon and in the provincial capitals of My Tho, Hau Nghia, Long Xuyen, Long An, Can Tho, Bac Lieu, Ca Mau... have enthusiastically welcomed, in open teach-ins, the October statements of the DRVN Government and the RSVN PRG and strongly condemned Thieu's frantic thwarting of the people's eager desire for peace, independence and freedom. A Western correspondent who had been long in Saigon had this to say about the DRVN and PRG statements: "This is a *Dien Bien Phu*, a *Tet* on the diplomatic front, a real political tornado right in Saigon streets." Many Saigon newspapers, in defiance of Thieu's stringent regulations, have reflected the people's will for peace and exposed the bellicosity and totalitarism of the dictator, an obstacle to peace and an exclusive agent for the implementation of US "Vietnamization." In administrative services, seconded personnel urged US troop withdrawal, removal of Thieu in view of the speedy restoration of peace, and asked for their immediate return to their original occupations to better serve the people and country. Small vendors, handicraftsmen, owners of motor vehicles, students and their parents strongly denounced Thieu's heavy taxations and demanded freedom of enterprises and trade. The people in the first district of Can Tho city, in Thanh Phu (Ben Tre province), Duc Hoa, Duc Hue, Chau Thanh, Can Duoc, Can Giuoc, Tan Tru, Ben Luc (Cholon province)... objected to forced participation in demonstrations against national reconciliation and concord, and tore up 50,000 Saigon flags. They also compelled the district and provincial quisling authorities to cancel the imposition of fines on passengers without a flag. Many families firmly resisted orders to display and purchase flags, and drove away Thieu's psy-war agents coming to draw or paint flags on the walls of their houses and carry out anti-peace propaganda.

The fight is going on and will certainly thwart Nguyen Van Thieu's designs.

TAM DUONG

Quang Tri – Thua Thien

a scene of unusual staying-power

Quang Tri PLAF in hot pursuit of the enemy

THE grim fight of the Quang Tri-Thua Thien armed forces and people has continued for nearly 8 months, marked by many extraordinary feats.

There opened this year's wave of offensives and uprisings in South Viet Nam with shattering blows on the solid defence perimeters of the most powerful adverse defensive complex and a very important part of the US-Saigon military strength.

From March 30 to April 5, the local armed forces and people made short work of the Highway 9 defence system painstakingly built for years by the US-Saigon command with the erection of the well-fortified McNamara electronic barrier.

From April 27 to May 1, Quang Tri-Thua Thien smashed to smithereens the enemy most powerful defence complex guarded by 10 infantry and armour regiments in Dong Ha, Quang Tri and La Vang. A few days later, the enemy defence line Southwest of Hue defended by the Saigon 1st Division in Cu Mong was breached and the defenders had to pull back to Binh Dien where they dug in.

With this strategic offensive which caught the enemy by surprise, the Quang Tri-Thua Thien armed forces and people brought a decisive change to the war situation, taking the revolutionary movement in this sector to an unprecedented level. Their signal gain in the one-month period ending April 1 was marked by the destruction of the Saigon 3rd Division and the serious depletion of the Saigon 1st Infantry Division and Marine Division. It was a new high in the capability to fight major annihilation battles and in the ability to mount concerted actions of the Quang Tri-Thua Thien PLAF.

It set the stage for popular uprisings which crushed the enemy's rural pacification system in Quang Tri and triggered the widespread collapse of the enemy's coercive machine. The military offensive gave strong leverage to the popular insurrections in many localities. The 300,000 inhabitants of Quang Tri joined the PLAF in obliterating the HQ's of a military sector and 5 military subsectors and garrison district towns and sweeping away all quisling administration structures at grass-roots level in 75 villages, to become real masters of their own destiny. Relentless uprisings involving tens of thousands of people greatly maimed the effectiveness of many strategic hamlets in Phu Vang, Phu Loc, Quang Dien, Phong Dien and Huong Tra districts, Thua Thien province.

The titanic US-Saigon coercive force crumbled like a house of cards, which has supplied an eloquent proof of the inevitable failure of US pacification program and "Vietnamization."

Since late June 1972, the Quang Tri-Thua Thien armed forces and people have held out against the furious enemy counter-attacks on newly-liberated areas of Quang Tri. In a short period of time, they have had to withstand the highest ever concentration of bombs and bullets in the history of war and have devastatingly hit back. From North of the My Chanh river to the edge of the walled citadel of Quang Tri, from the My Thuy coast to the Thach Han river every hamlet has turned into a fortress, and every plot of land a battleground. The local armed forces and people have fought with unparallel staunchness and courage and, using all tactics of the people's war, have beaten off the enemy counter-attacks and exacted a heavy toll.

The biggest operation ever launched by the US aggressors and their lackeys in 1972 to retake Quang Tri involving 2 divisions of their general strategic reserve has got bogged down. In spite of their superiority in fire power and maximum US air and naval coordination, and in spite of rapid troop replenishment and re-equipment, the Saigon airborne and marine divisions have been depleted of close to 35,000 men since late June 1972 when the drive to retake Quang Tri began.

It is an initial setback inflicted on the most formidable US-Saigon effort since Nixon re-Americanized the aggressive war with the massive participation of America's 2 most powerful armed services.

Nearly 8 months of gruelling combat have resulted in the destruction of a major enemy miltary force accounting for 1/4 of his total manpower and of 50% of the total of his armour and artillery lost in all South Viet Nam during the same period.

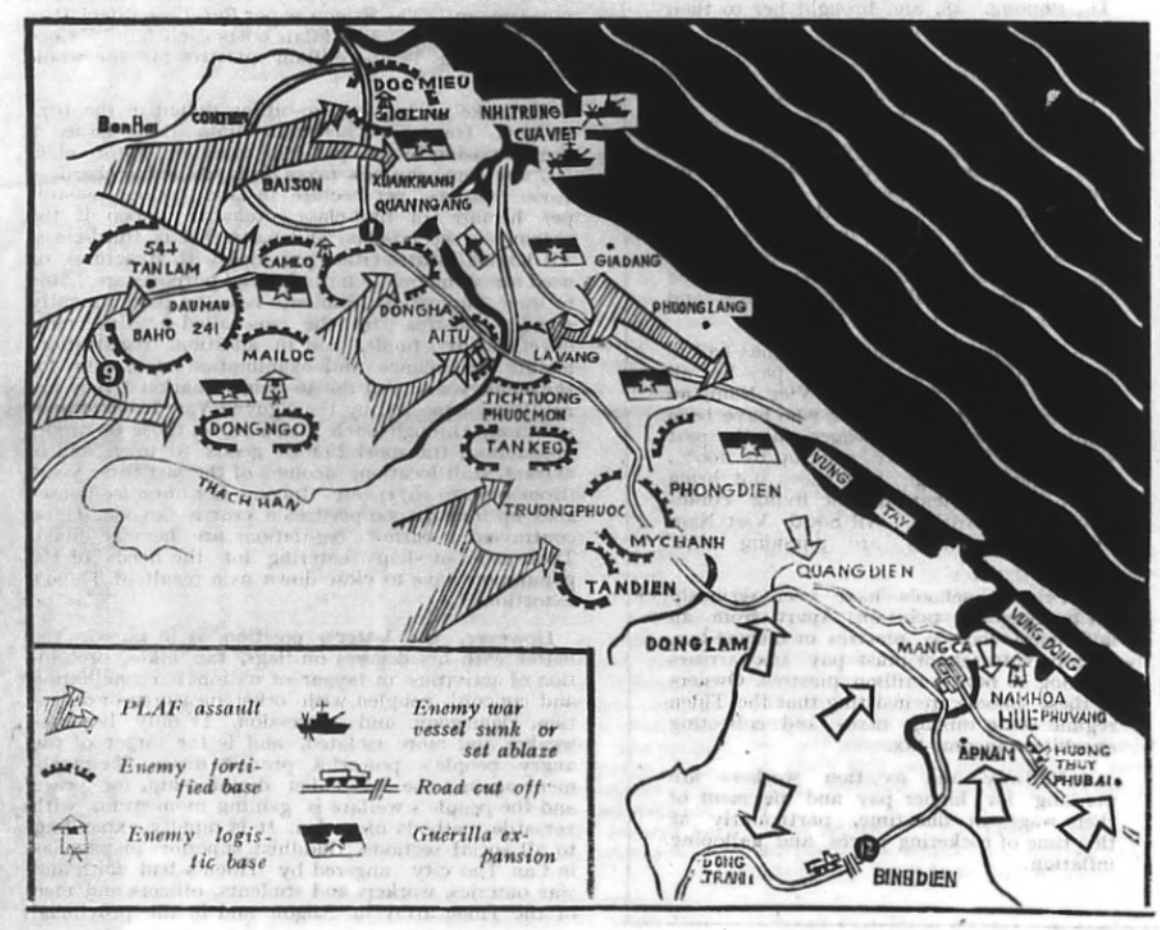
Enemy losses in this Northern sector significantly involved many elite units, long-range artillery and many types of heavy tanks.

Under the deluge of enemy military ordnance, Quang Tri-Thua Thien has preserved whole its fighting spirit and skill. Every place and person of the area has proved a credit to the nation. Tri Buu, Long Hung, the walled citadel, Tan Dien, Bich La, Nai Cuu, An Tiem have been littered with enemy corpses.

Tran Thi Tam, Vu Trung Thuong, Kieu Ngoc Luan, Le Van Trung, Mai Ngoc Khoang have become symbols of stubborn fighting for the armed forces and people in both parts of Viet Nam.

More than in any period of history, heroic Quang Tri-Thua Thien has been unmistakably displaying the incredible strength of the people's war and showing what revolutionary heroism is like. Fearless of difficulties and hardships, determined to fight and to win, it will frustrate all US-Saigon schemes and, together with the armed forces and people in the rest of South Viet Nam, will wreak total failure on Nixon's "Vietnamization."

DIEN AN



Southern Trung Bo

GUERILLAS VERY ACTIVE

SOUTHERN Trung Bo is a thinly populated area lying from the Viet Nam-Cambodia frontier to the South China Sea, covered mainly by mountains, forests and plateaus. It is traversed by National Highway 1 and possessed of many important strategic roads, big ports and famous US-Saigon military training centres. The high plateaux, in particular, shelter several secure health resorts haunted by chieftains of the Saigon administration and army. With its strategic position, rough terrain and a coastal plain considered "100 per cent pacified," it was to become, under US-Saigon plans, a safe buffer zone between Eastern Nam Bo and Central Trung Bo — two hot theatres of operations. The enemy had accordingly Saigon Division 24 garrisoned and a comprehensive coercive apparatus set up there. But right at the start of the strategic offensives and uprisings of South Viet Nam patriotic forces, various units of that Division 23 had to be sent to the rescue of Kontum. There they were badly trounced and got pinned down. Meanwhile, the so-called "territorial forces" were badly battered. For the last eight months, the Southern Trung Bo people and armed forces have been intensifying their attacks and uprisings and brought guerilla warfare to an all-time high.

At the end of March and beginning of April, the Southern Trung Bo liberation forces opened their drive by a series of assaults on 60 bases, positions, military subsectors, wiping out nearly 1,000 enemy, killing among others the colonel commanding the Dalat Military College. Then guerilla warfare was pushed up, shattering the enemy "pacification" program in many places, especially around Phan Thiet town and in D'rang area (Lam Dong province).

Guerilla has been particularly impelled in the last two months, spreading close to the cities and enemy bases: A series of infantry thrusts and artillery poundings were mounted by guerilla units and regional armed forces against enemy military subsectors, airfields and rear bases. The military subsectors of Thieu Giao (Binh Thuan), An Phu (Ninh Thuan), D'rang (Lam Dong), Hoai Duc (Binh Tuy) and a number of strongholds around Dalat and to the Northeast of Phan Thiet town came under searing fire. The Thanh Son airfield (Phan Rang town) was set afire with big detonations on October 2. Remarkably, on October 14, after secret preparations our regional forces dealt a surprise blow at the district's quisling authorities and para-military forces garrisoned in the D'rang military subsector; enemy troops sent to their rescue were also heavily depleted of 200 killed. These PLAF onslaughts sowed utter confusion in enemy ranks, the "bao an" and "dan ve" paramilitary forces had to call off a number of their "pacification" operations and dig in in military subsectors, district capitals and towns.

Meantime, the guerillas and regional forces also helped the population rise up, destroy enemy posts and positions, get rid of the oppressive apparatus, disperse concentration camps, especially in the delta districts of Phan Thiet and Ninh Thuan provinces and in the vicinity of Di Linh town, Lam Dong province, and regain varying degrees of control.

Recently stimulated by the successes of patriotic forces in Eastern Nam Bo, the Central Highlands and Central Trung Bo, guerilla actions in Southern Trung Bo have flared up, which has further aggravated enemy disarray and passiveness.

Making the most of their advantageous posture, the Southern Trung Bo people and armed forces have been stepping up guerilla warfare, surrounding enemy strongholds and bases, cutting without let-up his communication lines, inflicting on him considerable losses in manpower and materials. Guerillas and regional forces destroyed many bridges and culverts on National Highway 1, and intercepted enemy convoys on it. Highway 20 was also cut near D'rang subsector where an enemy convoy was engaged in fighting on October 14 with 110 adverse troops wiped out and many vehicles put out of action. The PLAF of Binh Thuan province, sticking to inter-provincial road No. 8, continuously hit at Saigon forces. In three days alone, from October 26 to 28, they took a toll of over 300 enemy, 16 tanks and armoured cars, and heavily decimated three "bao an" companies. All roads in Southern Trung Bo have become unsafe for the enemy.

Despite unfavourable conditions in terms of terrain, climate and logistics, and a big US-Saigon force and oppressive apparatus, the Southern Trung Bo people and armed forces have nevertheless scored substantial gains since the start of the offensives and uprisings and their guerilla activities have made a due contribution to the common effort of all South Vietnamese patriotic forces against the US aggressors.

H. T.

THE ZIT RESETTLEMENT CENTRE ERASED

THE Zit resettlement centre flanked the Highway 19 prolongation linking Thanh An and Duc Co. The US-Saigon regime had spent no less than million dollars to build it in 1968 into a model work of the kind in the Central Highlands. 150 hectares large, it was divided into sectors—each allotted to a hamlet under a plan elaborated by the Saigon authorities. Laying in-between were the administrative office and militia and civil-guard garrisons. Outside the perimeter, some hundred metres to the northeast, stood a security-guard training centre dubbed Tam outpost by the local inhabitants.

From the beginning of the construction of this disguised concentration camp under the 'accelerated pacification' program, large-scale operations with tank and air support were staged to round up the population of Districts 4 and 5 of Gia Lai province.

The enemy endeavoured to create an artificial prosperity in order to retain the inmates. It was labour lost however. Whenever those montagnards gazed at parrots flying overhead or owls crowing in the vicinity they would see in their mind's eyes village scenes so dear to them. Hunting or fishing parties, drinking bouts complete with folksongs and contemplation of *polang* blooms, young women with babies in their arms standing in the way of tanks to prevent raiders from wrecking their paddies, old-agers tying themselves to the pillars of their dwellings in protest against herding them into "strategic hamlets," everything made the Zit inmates homesick and stirred them up. 5,000 out of 8,000 managed to flee back to their native villages or the liberated areas. Toward the beginning of 1972, the struggle still had to be waged for the liberation of the rest.

In March this year, liberation regional troops and guerillas broke into the resettlement centre and set free 800. But Tam outpost remained and the misery of the impounded montagnards did not end altogether.

Last Summer, in spite of downpours and bomb showers, combatants of *Chien Thang* (Victory) unit came to Zit. Invested from all sides, Tam outpost called for help. Border Commando Battalion 82 which came to the rescue of the security-guard training centre on order from American 'advisers' was knocked out. The noose around the outpost was tightened, and under favour of a pitch-dark night its men hurriedly decamped. Meantime, special task detachments and guerillas entered the resettlement centre and helped its inmates stage a successful uprising.

As the cock's crow announced the coming of day, people opened their doors wide and a fire was lit in every house. Youths with knives and sticks, women with babies in their arms, old-agers leading their grand children went out of their dwellings. They surrounded security-guard barracks and erupted into the administrative office.

Under the guidance of revolutionary cadres the "captives" poured out of the resettlement centre in seemingly unending rows. Happy as they had never been, they talked and laughed noisily. They crowded around liberation fighters and shook hands with them with delight and emotion.

Breathing in the morning air, an old man exclaimed: "I'm liberated, I'm free again!"

When it was broad daylight, the Zit concentration zone was emptied of its inmates. Then their misery also came to an end.

The two PRG flags over the administrative office and on Height 30 fluttered in the wind. While group after group carried home their belongings, others pulled down the resettlement centre. Blockhouses, barbed-wire fences, corrugated-iron roofed shanties built in long rows, barracks, offices—verything that had been erected by the enemy to clamp a tighter grip on the population was torn down in less than three days. Of the ill-famed Zit concentration centre nothing remained but heaps of broken concrete and steel brought in by US aid. Back to their native lands, the montagnards received wholehearted help from their fellow-villagers and from the revolutionary power which spared no effort to resettle them.

HAIPHONG, this heroic port city

ON November 26, the armed forces and people of Haiphong downed their 300th US aircraft over the city, a signal feat of this heroic port city. With the experience they had acquired with their blood in the fight against the first US air and naval war, right in the early days of this second war, the armed forces and people of Haiphong already had brought down many US planes and captured many US pilots.

In their current air attacks, the US aggressors have been seeking to write off Haiphong, a city with a great population and many industrial enterprises and an important road terminus. With the massive use of their air power, they have flown raids day and night, seeded the port with mines, and hit at civilians in a most brutal manner. They have wantonly dropped bombs on all districts inside the city and on its outskirts and on off-shore islands. Their B.52's have saturation bombed densely populated areas stretching from the Cam river to the heart of the city and even tiny villages on the fringe of the city, killing or wounding many civilians including old-agers, children and pregnant women, destroying many economic and cultural establishments as well as civilian houses and caused heavy property damage. Traces of such atrocities can still be seen everywhere.

The US aggressors want to bend the fighting spirit of the Haiphong people and fighters and seal this city off from the outside world. However, the more frantic their war efforts are, the heavier their setbacks. Haiphong citizens have put up a stiff resistance and as a result, the list of captured pilots has been lengthening.

Challenging the deluge of US military hardware, Haiphong's armed forces have shown great resourcefulness, courage and revolutionary heroism. Every activity has been swiftly readjusted to wartime conditions. The local armed forces have displayed good combat performance and scored many achievements. Members of the air force, missile, anti-aircraft, navy, artillery, engineering, signal, infantry, people's armed security and home-guard units have all done their bits. Every city street, every factory and every hamlet has become a fortress, and every production or work site a battleground. A-A and missile units have been credited with bagging many types of US warplanes including one of the B.52's flying their maiden mission over the city. Home-guards of various factories and the port area have fought valiantly and brilliantly. 14 militia girls have accounted for an A.6 shot during a night raid.

On the production and transport and communications fronts, the workers have enhanced their sense of responsibility, demonstrated their firm determination to fight and to win, courageously confronted the enemy, performed their task with great success.

In spite of the enemy coordinate bombing and mining and blockade, transport and communication workers, sappers, sailors and home-guards have kept traffic on road and water going. Good in combat and in production, Haiphong workers and other citizens have successively overfulfilled their programs with high economic effectiveness, in both industrial and agricultural production.

With their single-mindedness and permanent preparedness, Haiphong armed forces and people have remained true to their tradition of "loyalty, courage and determination to win" in combat and in production as well.

While paying high tribute to these successes, the entire South Vietnamese armed forces and people are inspired by them in their all-out effort to step up their offensives and uprisings and inflict still heavier reverses on the US aggressors and their lackeys so as to bring the anti-US resistance to total victory.

The Viet Nam People's Army training day and night

The DRVN in brief

o On November 26, Haiphong scored a new win, bringing down a US aircraft, the 300th to be blasted out of the sky of this port city. The wreckage was spattered with mud and the number 147B.550.703 could be read on a splinter.

o Tens of thousands of youths of Ha Tay, Thanh Hoa, Hoa Binh, Nam Ha, Ninh Binh and Bac Thai provinces have enthusiastically joined the army. Some 300 representatives of various Catholic parishes and families and Catholic dignitaries have expressed their readiness to encourage Catholic youths to enlist. "All people discuss State affairs" conferences have been held in many villages and districts.

o According to a communiqué issued by the Commission for Investigation of US Crimes in Viet Nam, in the four days ending November 28, many flights of B.52's carpet-bombed many populated areas in Nghe An, Quang Binh, Ha Tinh and Vinh Linh. US navy guns fired thousands of shells on many coastal villages. The strikes inflicted hundreds of civilian casualties, mostly old people, women and children, destroyed many economic and cultural establishments and dwelling houses and caused damage to the local people's property.

o The Government has awarded the title of "Socialist Labour Team" to 84 teaching and working groups from various higher education establishments and middle-level vocational schools in recognition of their achievements in the 1971-1972 academic year. 62 of these groups belong to 18 universities and colleges and the remainder to 10 vocational schools.

o Agricultural production has made a big and steady headway in Ha Tay province in the last 3 years. Rice yield and output in 1970 increased by 20% over 1969. The growth rate was 10% for 1972 compared with 1970. Over two-thirds of the districts and towns obtained more than 5 tons and many localities from 8 to 10 tons of paddy per hectare.

o In a 150-day period — throughout the stage of growth of the Autumn rice plants — the US has made more than 500 air raids on Thai Binh province. Yet the province's 1.3 million inhabitants have brought in another bumper harvest. Not a single plot of land was left idle and not a single piece of ricefield listed as unproductive. Rice yield this year is 6 tons per hectare for the whole province and many of its districts have reaped as many as 7 tons.

o Although Nghe An has come under US aero-naval bombardments 4 times more furious than in the previous air and naval war, its rice yield per hectare this year is 0.7 ton higher than previously. The output varies between 5 and 9 tons.

o The Tran Hung Dao Engineering Plant is striving to fulfil its 1972 plan through a drive for technical improvement. Many innovations have been developed and proved highly economical, some helping increase labour efficiency by 172%.

o In spite of evacuation and dispersal, many enterprises run by the Haiphong Regional Industry Department have always overfulfilled their monthly plans. In October, the production program was 100% fulfilled in the whole department, or a 6.2% increase over September. Many units either fulfilled or overfulfilled their plans. In November, 26 enterprises announced exceeding of their quotas.

o The Do Lo maize strain has made its appearance in Ha Tay province. It can give 4 tons per hectare. As its period of growth is rather short—20-120 days—3 successive crops can be grown per year, accounting for at least 10 tons per hectare.

o The Hanoi Food Processing Service has successfully experimented a kind of "pressed cake." It contains all necessary nutritive substances and is up to hygienic standards. Processed for instant use, it well suits wartime conditions.

o Duck raising is being expanded in Thai Binh province. Incubation with heat from electric lights, instead of from rice paddy as in the old method, increases the hatching rate and saves paddy. The province produces every year 800 tons of duck and 16 million eggs.

Bee-keeping is also an important activity in this province which obtains 35 tons of honey annually, apart from royal jelly.

Laos

— Big gains in Saravane and Xieng Khouang — Luang Prabang airfield stormed

XIENG KHOUANG, Luang Prabang and Savannakhet regionals and guerillas began their 1972 — 1973 rainy season with a series of battle successes, according to *Khaosan Pathet Lao*.

At the Ban Ngam road junction, the Liberation Armed Forces quickly wiped out on November 1st an adverse platoon and overran a position west of the area. The Liberation fighters and guerillas then beat off many pillaging operations along Highway 23 and around Pakse, inflicting over 100 casualties.

In Saravane provincial capital, the patriotic forces fought off an enemy encroaching counter-offensive in Lao Ngam district, putting out of action hundreds of adverse troops and downing two US aircraft. At the same time they assaulted several posts. The onslaught against the CP of Mobile Group 42 on November 6 alone took a toll of 70 enemy.

Following up their gains in the recent rainy season, the Saravane army and people have held the battlefield initiative and continually attacked the US-Vientiane troops in their very sanctuaries to foil their new military adventure. Guerilla warfare has been spreading in all parts and the liberated areas have been consolidated.

In the Plain of Jars area, after failing in their scheme to assault the Plain from the west and northwest last October, the US and its agents mustered in the southern part of the strategic plateau many units of Vang Pao "special forces" and Thai troops in counter-offensives against the Plain. But the attackers were badly mauled by the Lao patriotic forces from October 26 to early November: 5 regiments of "special forces" and 3 battalions of Thai mercenaries were trounced at Ban Phon area (from 10 to 15km south of the Plain of Jars), more than 1,200 men put out of combat, 5 aircraft brought down, over 200 firearms of various denominations seized or destroyed. Meantime, the PLA and patriotic neutralist forces also intercepted the enemy inroads in Muong Suoi area, assailed those in Sala Phoukhoun and the remainders west of the Plain of Jars and shelled Long Cheng area, wiping out nearly 400 adverse troops, seizing many weapons. Between 4 and 10 of November, the Xieng Khouang regional army and guerillas ambushed the enemy in Phousabot and Keobon, along Highway 7 and hotly pursued their remnants around the Plain of Jars, knocking out over 80 of them, capturing a lot of weapons and downing a L-19 plane.

The US scheme to encroach on the Plain of Jars was completely defeated at the end of the rainy season. The army and people in Xieng Khouang - Plain of Jars area have become ever stronger and stand ready to frustrate other adverse efforts. Guerilla warfare has been steadily expanding in the northern part of Laos, close to major cities including Luang Prabang. In the first 10 days of November, guerillas and regional forces intercepted Mobile Group 12 of the Vientiane army counter-attacking east of Pakou, and at the same time assailed Phouda post, causing many enemy casualties. *AFP* reported on November 13 that late in the night of November 12, the Pathet Lao forces fired 51 rockets on the Luang Prabang airfield, damaging five T-28 bombers and one reconnaissance plane.

The same attack wreaked serious adverse losses and threw them into utter confusion. According to *UPI*, rockets blew up an ammunition storage, damaged an aircraft hangar and a barrack. "It is the first time the airfield has been rocketed since January this year," *AP* said.

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Enemy artillery site in Phu Ton Height shattered by the shells of the Lao PLAF's Battalion 21

Here and there

Propaganda stunts

The governor of Qui Nhon province assembled all functionaries under his authority and ordered them to sport on their chest a slip of paper inscribed with this slogan: "No and no to neutrality". This prompted a school teacher to declare to a *Combat* correspondent on November 2, 1972 that it was simply childish of the (Saigon) government to use such methods with the Communists.

Aware that it was far from winning the hearts of the people, the Thieu regime sent a batch of Thu Duc military academy cadets and their officers-instructor to various rural areas under its control to "explain" to them its viewpoint and position. The *Christian Science Monitor* correspondent investigating at Tan Phu Trung village northeast of Saigon reported that the villagers did not care much for Thieu's arguments and thought he was an obstacle to peace. Better still, they "hated much" US-Thieu planes which destroyed their houses, paddies and gardens, the Saigon soldiery who pillaged their rice, fowls, clothing and even their tobacco.

Which explained why the "explainers" could only show up in the villages only a few hours during the day and had to retire for the night to district towns behind fences of barbed wire while the locals gathered in their numbers to greet communist political cadres (*Reuter*, November 19).

Better still, some explicators running short of arguments in front of hecklers, sometimes fell in with the population's anti-US view. So Thieu was compelled to set up at once a "special committee" entrusted with watching and controlling those some thousand civilian agents and cadets (*Reuter*, November 23, 1972).

It is rumoured that a "particular committee" would be established to supervise the "special committee."

The inconvenience of the rains

According to US-Saigon military command's communiqués, the drawn-out rains over the last days have hindered the Marines and Paratroops' advance on the Quang Tri front.

The rains here mean natural rains and rains of shells too:

November 25: 1,800 communist shells fired on Marines and Paratroops' bases in Quang Tri;

November 26: the *AFP* correspondent was told by US-Saigon military on this front that they had been able to count up to 2,100 communist shells:

November 28: 3,500 communist shells... A terrific pounding (*Reuter*).

November 28: The US - Saigon troops continued to come under communist artillery fire as violent as in the first days of the communist offensive 9 months ago (*AFP*).

While trying to minimize the damage, the Saigon military spokesman could not help owning to the *AFP* correspondent that the shellings had inflicted "heavy losses" on Saigon men.

What is most annoying is that for all the US-Saigon saturation bombing the flow of supply from the communist rear could not be halted.

Moreover, Saigon "official sources" also let it be known that after the fall of Duc Co, the Saigon troops had to fall back on the defence of Thanh Giao, the last strategic position on Highway 19, less than 18 miles from Pleiku to the Southwest. But *AFP* said on November 11 that Thanh Giao had been under uninterrupted fire for three days and *UPI* reported that the communist ground fire had interdicted the base to the choppers and that all government guns had been wrecked in the last days' communist assault.

Such a state of things is not particular to Thanh Giao. Communist artillery hitting at the Phu Hoa district town, near Saigon, blotted out a battalion CP and killed or wounded the place's commander, deputy-commander and 12 other officers. (*UPI*, November 26).

Magistral aid

Naturally Saigon has called for aid from its master, the US which has had to resort to its air power, now rendered powerless. Leaks by US command in Saigon revealed that B.52 strikes had been these last days intensified and also magistrally countered by adverse flak. Faced with irrefutable evidence, the Pentagon had to admit that a B.52 had been hit by a SAM and fell to pieces on Thai territory. It also acknowledged that another stratofortress had been hit by North Vietnamese anti-aircraft fire during a night raid on North Viet Nam on November 22, exactly as had been announced by the General Staff of the Viet Nam People's Army.

AFP reported on November 24, 1972 that all Washington evening papers had front-paged the Pentagon admission which sparked off a stir in public opinion. To mollify it, Laird awarded a medal to the captain of the B.52 grounded on the night of November 22 (*AFP*, November 25). It is in US tradition to honour with various decorations of bravery like the Purple Heart gallant officers and men of the US army fleeing enemy offensives or killed or wounded in the unpalatable aggression against Viet Nam.

There is however little likelihood that the trick will boost the morale of B.52 pilots. It is recalled that after the grounding of one of the giant bombers in Haiphong on April 16 in the course of its first raid on the port city, *USIS* reported a state of tension at the Utapao (Thailand) B.52 base among pilots who had been some time earlier attacked by North VN ground-to-air missiles. An air officer admitted that panic had begun to be felt among the personnel in his charge.

And as a reply to Laird right on November 25, while the Secretary of Defence was performing his show a non-com of the USAF, David Murphy, announced that he had collected 200 signatures of the air personnel of the base to a protest against prolongation of the war in Viet Nam (*AFP*, November 25).

HUONG NAM

World public opinion flays

The intensification of the war by the US

AMIDST widespread speculation about the impending signing of the cease-fire accord, the Nixon administration continues stepping up saturation bombardments against both North and South Viet Nam and massive weapon and war material deliveries to South Viet Nam to consolidate the Nguyen Van Thieu regime. One can no longer trust Nixon's pious words. It is necessary to push up the struggle to urge Nixon to sign at once the peace accord, end his bombings, and stop immediately the war of aggression in Viet Nam, said on November 15, 1972 Jack Askin, Secretary General of the British Council for Peace in Viet Nam, who expressed the very feeling of progressive mankind.

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Indeed, over the last few weeks, ebullient demonstrations, meetings, exhibitions, overtime work, collections of money and materials for Viet Nam and the signing of petitions against the US and for the immediate signing by Nixon of the agreement already arrived at... have been held in many countries, in the United States, Britain, Italy, Sweden, Norway, the GDR, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Netherlands, New Caledonia, Iraq... Over 10,000 French youths marched in Paris on November 16 for 2 hours in the cold rain chanting: "Nixon, sign!" and "Stop the bombing." In many places in Italy, from November 9 to 15, similar actions broke out with an unprecedented effervescence to pressure the US into signing at once the peace agreement. "The week of protest against US delay in signing the agreement" was held in Scotland from November 13 to 18. In London, demonstrations are organized in front the American Embassy for 12 hours and more, against the bad faith of Nixon. Over 400 Britishers including scientists, writers and doctors have sent messages to the US President urging him to stop immediately the bombing of Viet Nam. In West Germany, over 100,000 people signed petitions calling for immediate signing of the cease-fire accord. Many academicians, painters and poets have presented the Vietnamese with the prizes awarded them: Professor Dr. Dmitri Markov, Bulgarian corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Italian painter R. Guttodo, Soviet poet K. Simonov, etc.

Nixon's double-dealing has been in the news all over the world. It has been referred to in all places and at all times, in diplomatic contacts, and in visits of friendship of delegations of governments and political parties of different countries, and in international, regional or national conferences.

"In South Viet Nam as well as in Cambodia and Laos, it has been pointed out, US imperialism has not ceased its odious crimes against the local people. Since October 1972, the Nixon administration has once again introduced large quantities of arms and other means of war into South Viet Nam and frenziedly increased the military equipment of the Nguyen Van Thieu administration. In the first half of November alone, the US delivered to the Saigon administration over 600 aircraft of various types, many destroyers and cruisers, hundreds of tanks and armoured cars and large quantities of other war means and military goods. Many US officers under the guise of "civilian advisers" have also been sent to South Viet Nam. These are very grave war escalations showing that the Nixon administration has not given up its aggressive designs upon Viet Nam and is continuing to thwart the aspiration for peace of the Vietnamese and the peoples of the world including the Americans. They have further laid bare its extremely bellicose, ferocious and perfidious nature" (Statement on November 24 of the Foreign Ministry of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia).

The *National Zeitung* of the GDR wrote on November 25: "In the first half of November, over 4,000 US fighter bombers and 450 B-52s dropped 22,300 tons of bombs on the Vietnamese while the Nixon administration was striving to make the people of the world believe that it was trying to bring round Nguyen Van Thieu to peace."

Reflecting the same opinion, the final declaration of the recent enlarged session of the Executive Committee of the Stockholm Conference on Viet Nam held in Paris on November 25 and 26 wrote: "Contrary to its statements the US has intensified the war. Its bombardments are continually increasing and are concentrated on populous areas in South and North Viet Nam as well as in Laos and Cambodia; its supply of arms to the Saigon regime has been accelerated..."

The appeal of the executive session of the World Federation of Democratic Youth held in Moscow by representatives of over 60 youth organizations from different countries said: "The American government is resorting to means which are shocking the world public. Nixon is breaking his promise and violating his commitments by refusing to sign the agreement already reached, meanwhile the American government is stepping up the war. Aid for the Thieu regime is increasing, wanton bombings are taking place all over Viet Nam, thousands of people in South Viet Nam are subjected to brutal repression."

"The US government not only backed out from the schedule for signing agreed on by the Vietnamese and US sides under the pretext of difficulties encountered in Saigon," Chinese Foreign Minister Chi Peng-fei said, "but it is also continuing its attempt to make substantive alterations to the agreements already reached. Meanwhile, the US aggressors have been speeding up large-scale deliveries to Saigon of additional war materials of different kinds, wantonly bombing southern and northern Viet Nam and uttering war threats against the Vietnamese people..."

Along with condemnation of US stepping up of its war of aggression, world opinion has told the Nixon administration that the only way for it to get out of its war of aggression is to respect the Vietnamese people's fundamental rights, completely stop the bombing, mining and blockading of the DRVN, withdraw at once all troops of the US and those of its satellites from South Viet Nam, respect the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, end all military involvement and engage in serious negotiations at the Paris Conference. The Nixon government must thoroughly honour its commitments and sign immediately the agreement on ending the war and restoring peace in Viet Nam, thus contributing to the consolidation of peace in Asia and the world; only by doing so can the US meet the aspirations of the peoples of the world, the Americans included (Statement of the First Conference of the Peruvian Women).

"Peace in Viet Nam now!" Demonstration of French youths against the US war in Viet Nam

in brief * in brief

— The joint communiqués of the USSR and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (GDR) and the Moroccan Party of Liberation and the Romanian Communist Party and the Cyprus Working People's Progressive Party, have reaffirmed full solidarity with, and support to, the resistances of the peoples of Viet Nam and Indochina against US aggression, and for freedom, independence and national sovereignty.

— During an interview with RSVN Ambassador to Czechoslovakia, on November 21, L. Strugal, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, declared: "The Communist Party, Government and people of Czechoslovakia fully support the just and heroic struggle of the South Vietnamese against US aggression on all the military, political and diplomatic fronts."

— During the 15th International Documentary and Short Films Festival in Leipzig, film workers and artistes from 75 countries contributed on "the night of solidarity with Viet Nam" (November 22) over 2,000 marks for the Vietnamese.

On receiving his reward, Soviet poet Konstantin Simonov stated that he presented the Vietnamese with the whole "Golden dove" 5,000 mark prize awarded to his film "There are no foreign pains."

— The Bulgarian Painters' Union met on November 22 with representatives of the press, radios, news agency and TV to brief them on the activities of its members in support of Viet Nam.

After criticizing the crime of aggression committed by the US and urging it to sign at once the agreement on ending the war and restoring peace in Viet Nam, Dimiter Ostoi, Secretary of the Union, and Pesko Abagiev, Secretary of the Union Party Committee, made known that well-known Bulgarian painters had produced many works with Viet Nam as their theme, and were preparing an exhibition to raise funds for Viet Nam.

SOUTH VIET NAM — CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION